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Northallerton Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

By the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

And

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ended 31st December, 1946.

Clerk :

JOSEPH HUNT, Esq., Solicitor.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.

Inspector :

H. TEMPLEMAN, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Northallerton Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Report

for 1946.

Chairman—Herbert Atkinson, Esq.

Vice-Chairman—John Walker, Esq.

Clerk—Joseph Hunt, Esq., Solicitor.

Medical Officer—J. A. Hutchinson, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.

Deputy Medical Officer—A. E. Milne, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector—H. Templeman, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I.
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Isolation Hospital Matron—Miss M. B. Garland, S.R.N., R.F.N.

Population—1931 Census	7,683
Population—Estimate for middle of 1946 ..	8,018 R.C.
Density of population ..	7.90 acres per person.
Number of dwelling houses	2,800

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report as M.O.H. for the past year, 1946.

Number of Births registered, 143—Males 74, and Females 69, yielding a birth-rate of 17.83 per 1,000 civilian population.

This rate for the whole of England and Wales was 19.1. Unhappily there was an **increase** of 12 in illegitimacy as compared with the previous year—5.

Number of Deaths registered, 92—41 males and 52 females. Average age at death of those registered locally—males, 65 years ; females, 61 years. Deaths of Children under one year of age, 3.

Notwithstanding the very little sunshine we had during the past year, the general health of your community has again been quite good, children especially appear to have been remarkably well. We had no **serious** epidemic of infectious diseases ; a comparatively mild outbreak of **measles,** however, did occur and interfered with school attendance, but the only notifications received were made by teachers—of absentees. The same observation may be made with regard to **Whooping Cough,** except that one **Medical** notification was received. It should again be **emphasised** that these diseases, and their complications, are not negligible—**they should** be given medical supervision.

14 Cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and treated in hospital. Six of these were not notified until received in hospital. All made good recoveries and we have had no return cases.

Four cases of Pneumonia were notified.

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, all are being treated at home under the care of the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Cubie. Four deaths however were registered as due to these diseases.

Four cases of Diphtheria were treated in hospital, all had been immunised, none were ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore isolated and treated till negative for one full week. One notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum (mild) was received.

V.D.

Instructions regarding the strictly private facilities for advice and treatment of these diseases were posted in suitable places. No applications have been made to me personally, but applications for confidential information from neighbouring doctors and Medical Officers of neighbouring clinics reveal that 11 sufferers from these diseases have been under treatment at clinics, from this area.

Infectious patients now are always pleased to be brought in by Hospital Ambulance in charge of Matron or Head-Nurse, for isolation and treatment. Infected households are inspected and supplied with disinfectant together with verbal and printed instructions as to precautions to be taken. All notified Small-pox **contacts from abroad** have been visited, all had been re-vaccinated and all remain well.

In addition to ordinary routine duties, the following items are of interest :—

1. The appointment of a whole-time man for the Fever Hospital, with duties as Ambulance Driver and General Help.

2. The commission of Mr. Broadway to represent the Hospital Committee at the Government Sales of War Office Ambulances.

3. The formation of a Joint Water Board with the Urban Authority to carry out and manage an additional waterworks at Osmotherley for the provision of a piped supply to an extensive part of your area at present unprovided for.

4. A satisfactory system of sewage disposal for the village of Brompton has been an anxious problem during recent years.

Owing to difficulties of contour, and the increasing number of water closets, the present system of a series of settling and septic tanks is inadequate to present-day requirements.

It is proposed to deal with this effluent on the works already approved for Romanby. A scheme for possibly carrying out this undertaking is being developed by the Authority's Consulting Engineer.

Details to date of these two important undertakings are given below by Mr. Templeman, together with reports of inspections of Factories, Workshops, etc.

Notifications of acute infectious diseases received were—Diphtheria 4, Scarlet Fever 8, Whooping Cough 1, Pneumonia 4, Erysipelas 1, Opthalmic Neonatorum 1. Two of Pulmonary and two of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were also received.

Rivers and Streams.

These have been cleaned and cleared of obstructions by motor excavator with marked improvement to drainage, watering places and amenity.

The very great improvement at Water End, Brompton, which resulted from clearing out the beck by motor excavator is not proving in any degree permanent : owing to very poor fall, the obstruction is recurring. This is an important water course because of great liability to damaging flooding. Property owners on both sides of Water End contribute, by rates, to Drainage Board expenditure and are aggrieved by any failure to maintain the Beck free from obstruction as far as possible. The practice, by a few residents, of throwing unwanted articles into the Beck should be officially forbidden and offenders prosecuted.

It has not yet been found possible to remedy serious defects, already reported, in the sewer outfall at Low Silton. Defects at Thornton Le Beans have been remedied.

Recurring nuisances are being caused by defective lengths of sewer in the villages of East Cowton and West Rounton, these should be replaced by properly jointed stoneware pipes as soon as practicable.

Except for the outfall from Brompton sewers after passing through tanks to the beck, and the outlet from Willow Garth to Romanby beck ; rivers and streams have been much improved by excavation. **Completion** of these disposal works should remedy both these serious and longstanding defects. For the time being sewage on the Willow Garth is being treated with chemical disinfecting precipitants. There is considerable difficulty in disposing of thc resultant deposit even after drying. It is hoped that these works may now be expedited, especially as numbers of Council houses approaching completion at both these villages will be within reach of any nuisance arising from present conditions.

SCAVENGING.

The additional " Karrier " motor and team will enable the scavenging of all our villages to be carried out with **regularity**—a very needful service. The pan closets at Osmotherley School should now be replaced by W.C.'s : other schools in your area should be similarly dealt with as soon as a piped water supply is available.

Water Supplies continue as frequently described in previous Annual Reports pending the carrying out of your approved extension of a piped supply to practically the whole of your area still unprovided. The desirability of a branch main passing through Kirby Sigston to nearby farms has been under consideration as a local temporary convenience and relief. Brompton water main **should** now be relaid.

MILK.

There are now 384 cowkeepers on your register ; of these, 4 have tubercle tested herds and 15 are producers of accredited milk. A few producers deal directly with milk consumers or distributors, but the bulk of milk produced within your area is now dealt with at the fully equipped " Dried Milk Products Dairy " at Romanby, as follows:—

The milk produced is collected in churns at or near the farms and transferred to the factory at Romanby, by their fleet of lorries, where it is pasteurised and cooled before despatch to neighbouring towns over a wide area of the Northern Region.

Samples are taken in rotation from all contributing farms for examination by qualified chemists on the staff of the factory, and unsatisfactory results lead to rejection. Although samples are frequently being taken for laboratory examination by health officials of the towns supplied we are now having practically no complaints of unsatisfactory milk.

Great care is exercised in this direction by the factory and samples are taken at regular intervals during the day from all sections of the plant, as well as samples from individual dispatches to ensure that all milk is up to bacteriological standard.

The volume of milk handled at the factory varies from 22,000 to 32,000 gallons per day according to season. Unfortunately, **one result** of this arrangement has been the **practical cessation** of all fresh butter and cheese making in the neighbourhood.

I am indebted to A. L. Mullen Esq., M.R.C.V.S., Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, for the following record of veterinary inspection results relating to your area during 1946. All milk producing herds are inspected twice a year and those producing milk for schools, three times a year.

T.B. ORDER, 1936.

16 animals were slaughtered under the above Order.
12 were in milk.

Post Mortem examinations revealed that :—

5 had been suffering from Tuberculosis of the udder.
10 had been suffering from Tuberculosis with chronic cough.
1 had been suffering from Tuberculosis and was emaciated.

Several cases of suspected Anthrax were reported but pathological examination proved negative in all cases.

Milk and Dairies Clinical Examination of Dairy Cattle.

311 herds were inspected.

(*Signed*) A. J. MULLEN,

Divisional Inspector.

Factory Sanitation. Generally satisfactory.

It is now recognised beyond question that an unknown percentage of persons who are apparently in quite normal health are potential carriers of certain infections to others ; for this reason and in order to minimise risk, health authorities now press for the provision of hand-washing facilities in connection with closets together with a poster **urging the duty** to carry out this item of toilet. All factories within your area are now so provided.

2 Linen Mills at Brompton.
1 Bakery at Brompton.
1 Toy Factory at Romanby.
1 Motor Garage at Romanby.
1 Dairy Factory at Romanby.

ICE-CREAM.

None is manufactured here. During hot weather several shops retail ice-cream obtained from wholesalers such as Messrs. Lyons. No samples for laboratory examination have yet been taken.

PREPARATION OF FOOD.

Butchers' Shops and Slaughter Houses. There are at present no private slaughter houses—slaughtering (except in the case of licensed slaughter of pigs for private consumption) is done at the Central Slaughter House in the Urban area. Butchers' shops and delivery vans are satisfactory except that more frequent applications of lime-wash is desirable ; during transit, meats are protected by suitable covering against contamination by dust and flies.

Bakeries. Only one within the area—satisfactory ; bread supply is also furnished by Urban bakers.

HOUSING.

Total number of occupied dwelling houses, 2,800.

There are 2,250 working-class houses within your area, and

details of inspection and classification will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector appended.

Group Isolation Hospital receiving patients from Northallerton Urban and Rural Districts together with patients from Bedale, Thirsk and Helmsley District Areas.

Although the number of receptions was considerably reduced as compared with the previous year,

	1945	1946
Civilian	69	56
Military	90	32
	159	88

your staff were fairly fully occupied throughout the year. In addition 4 patients were transferred to Guisborough Isolation Hospital because of difficulty in satisfactorily isolating the variety of infections received—Scarlet Fever, 41 ; Diphtheria, 17 ; Measles, 6 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Tubercular Meningitis, 1 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Rubella (German Measles) 14 ; Chicken Pox, 4 ; Mumps, 3. The case of Meningitis unhappily proved fatal. Beyond spinal puncture for the Meningitis, no surgical interference was called for. All the Diphtherias had been immunised, none were really ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore isolated and treated until negative for a full week. Several of the infections sent in by the Military are ordinarily treated privately at home but cannot be dealt with in a **military camp.** Salaries of the staff have been revised. A full time attendant has now been appointed with duties as Ambulance Driver and General Help.

The Committee have acquired an ex-War Department Austin Ambulance and this requires some adjustment of seating for Matron or Sister.

We are still short of a Wardmaid. The Hospital blocks have been repainted. The corrugated iron roof should be renewed and some of the Ward floors require planing and re-staining. The equipment and administration of the Hospital have been satisfactory. Some sheeting and blankets are now beyond satisfactory repair and should be renewed. No return cases were reported.

If desired, patients may be attended in hospital by their family doctor.

IMMUNISATION.

With the approval and kind assistance of Mr. Barraclough, during March a census of all children attending school within our area was taken when it was found that there were on the register 103 who had not been immunised against diphtheria. This includes the 5-year-olds newly entered during the previous 12 months. Parents of all these children were circularised urging the grave responsibility of leaving any child unprotected, as far as is possible, against this fearsome disease. The response has been good—84 consents were received and treatment completed at school clinics.

The number of immunisations of children under school age is not so good—54—while the average of births over a series of years has been about 100. This disappointing feature in the result of the campaign is recurrent and probably due to parents' aversion to have their infants pricked and alarmed, and is possibly a reason for transferring the responsibility for securing the immunisation of infants to the Welfare Authority. District Nurses have more opportunities of contact with parents and consequently can apply more constant influence and persuasion.

In conclusion, I beg to acknowledge much help from Mr. Templeman and my professional neighbours in carrying out my duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.O.H

Northallerton, *July*, 1947.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (*i*) Water.

The undermentioned Parishes within the Rural Area have a piped supply of water, *viz.*:—

Brompton.	Nether Silton.
Romanby.	Over Silton (Private).
Osmotherley.	West Rounton.

The remaining 35 Parishes rely upon public and private wells except certain private properties which receive a piped supply from adjoining water undertakings.

During the year the water supply of the area and its several parts was generally satisfactory in quality save for a period in the late Autumn when a general direction as to boiling had to be issued owing to the exceptionally heavy rains which caused disturbances on the catchment areas. The quantity of water available during 1946 was fairly satisfactory although those Parishes which rely on wells have generally a difficult time during the late Summer and hardship is occasioned to milk producers in respect of cooling facilities.

The large Parish and township of Brompton has not an entirely satisfactory pressure of piped water, but a scheme is being prepared by the water undertakers, *i.e.*, the Northallerton Urban District Council, to augment the supply by an additional main and it is hoped this scheme will receive Ministry approval.

Routine bacteriological examinations are taken by arrangement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton. These are taken regularly so far as tap water is concerned ; samples are only taken at the source when the aforementioned samples indicate further action is desired.

None of the waters is plumbo-solvent.

The only action in connection with contamination during 1946 was boiling and chlorination as aforementioned until the abnormal circumstances had abated. One private well at Low Moor, Brompton Parish, required protective measures to be undertaken to prevent surface pollution.

The following table is reproduced to show particulars of the number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water-mains.

PARISH	*HOUSES*		*POPULATION*	
	Direct piped	*Stand pipe*	*Direct piped*	*Stand pipe*
Brompton ..	400	—	1,260	—
Romanby ..	329	—	1,000	—
Osmotherley ..	214	20	509	70
Nether Silton ..	20	8	68	25
West Rounton ..	22	5	60	12

NOTE : The above figures relate only to the villages ; the outlying properties in the Parishes have wells.

During the year, the Council's 1938 scheme for the construction of an impounding reservoir at Silton and a mains system to supply water to the eastern and northern parts of their area was reviewed. After consideration it was decided that the distribution system was not large enough in scope and it was resolved that the scheme be revised and extended so as to cover practically the whole of the Council's area. It therefore became necessary to seek additional sources of supply as the Silton catchment area could not produce the quantity of water required. Accordingly, agreement was eventually reached with the Northallerton Urban District Council that the two authorities combine and form a Joint Water Board under the Act of 1945 for the purpose of constructing a reservoir at Osmotherley in the valley of the Cod Beck with a storage capacity of 100,000,000 gallons together with necessary filtration works. Each authority is to remain separately responsible for works of distribution within its own area.

(*ii*) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

From time to time during the year, difficulty was experienced in maintaining trouble-free sections of the sewers in the villages of Nether Silton, East Cowton, West Rounton and Deighton. As these sewers mainly consist of unjointed field-pipes, the same should be renewed with properly jointed stoneware sanitary pipes.

New sewers or lengths renewed are shown in the table under :—

PARISH	*Length*	*Diam.*	*Details*
Hutton Bonville ..	25 yds.	4 in.	Renewal of defective tile drain.
Great Smeaton ..	500 ,,	6 ,,	New outfall sewer.
Brompton	60 ,,	6 ,,	10 houses. Brompton Road. Council Housing Estate. Brompton.
	127 ,,	9 ,,	
	479 ,,	6 ,,	
	67 ,,	4 ,,	

Public cesspools or settling tanks within the various villages were cleansed twice during the year by private contractors. In this connection, it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain labour for this class of work and the time may not be far distant when the Council will have to consider acquiring a motor pump and trailer tank to deal expeditiously with the numerous settling tanks throughout the area.

The continuous-flow sewage works at Osmotherley were a source of trouble during the year principally due to a faulty sludge discharge pipe. The trouble had not been finally resolved at the end of the year.

The scheme for the construction of a sewage disposal works at Romanby, which was postponed due to the outbreak of war, was reconsidered during the year and the Council's consulting engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme whereby the sewage from Brompton might be treated in conjunction with that from Romanby if possible.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health seeking approval to the construction of an enlarged Joint Sewage Works

at Romanby for the Parishes of Romanby and Brompton and the incidental construction of a 12 inch outfall sewer from Brompton to Romanby.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that there is urgent need for the provision of sewage disposal facilities for Romanby and Brompton, particularly Romanby where it is well-nigh impossible to treat the strong industrial effluent on the out-of-date Willowgarth.

(*iii*) **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year four privies were converted to water-closets and four privy middens to pan-closets.

(*iv*) **Public Cleansing.**

The Council have operated a 7 cub. yard " Karrier " Bantam for the past three years and during 1946 a direct labour scavenging service was in operation in 12 Parishes. During that year it was decided to acquire a 10 cub. yard " Karrier " and apply direct labour scavenging to the remainder of the Council's area involving an additional 16 Parishes. The complete service was scheduled to begin at the turn of the year.

No analysis of work done, loads, weights, mileages is shewn in this report, but will be available in subsequent reports.

The refuse is disposed principally on the controlled system at the old clay pit off the Yafforth Road, and no complaints have arisen. In the more remote rural parishes the refuse is disposed with the co-operation of farmers on agricultural land. This saves time and assists in keeping operative costs down.

(*v*) **Salvage.**

During the year 8½ tons of paper were collected and realised £54 0s. 0d.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Summary of Inspection.

Complaints	98
Complaints revisits	25
Housing Acts	965

Housing Acts revisits	34
Infectious Diseases	12
Disinfection	12
Meat and Food Inspection	13
Pasteurising Plants	11
Dairies and Cowsheds	56
Water Supply	10
Temporary Dwellings	4
New Buildings	75
Drain Work..	41
Factories and Workshops..	18
Privy Conversions	12
Sewers and Sewage Works	69
Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage	50
	1505

Nuisances.

No. of Inspections made	111
No. of Re-inspections	61
No. of Informal Notices served ..	78
No. of Statutory Notices served ..	3
No. of Nuisances found	161
Roofs repaired	21
Walls repaired	7
Floors re-laid	10
Ceilings repaired or renewed	9
House water supplies	6
Yard surfaces	3
Refuse bins renewed	15
Closet pans renewed	12
Foul cesspools	3
Foul drains	18
Foul Ashpits	2
Defective privies	2
Defective window frames	14
Defective cooking ranges	15
Defective spouts	12
Defective rain water pipes	10
Defective water service pipes	7
Dirty premises	2
Defective W.C. basins	4
Miscellaneous repairs not enumerated above	35

Housing and Building Plans.

There are 2,250 houses of up to and including £26 R.V. Since the inception of the Rural Housing Survey, the following houses have been inspected and classified :

	1945	1946
1. Fit in all respects	59	706
2. Minor defects	238	242
3. Major defects	72	153
4. Suitable for re-conditioning	1	8
5. Cannot be made fit at reasonable outlay	22	56
Houses overcrowded	45	14
No. of Informal Notices served ..	30	60
No. of houses where repairs completed	50	28
No. of houses where repairs are in hand	—	12

75 visits were made in connection with new buildings.

Plans were approved for Buildings in the following Parishes :

Appleton Wiske	7
Ainderby Steeple	5
Brompton	52
Borrowby	2
East Harlsey	1
East Cowton	1
Ellerbeck	1
Great Smeaton	1
Great Langton	2
Hutton Bonville	4
Kirby Sigston	1
Osmotherley	10
Romanby	16
South Cowton	2
West Rounton	1
Welbury	2
	108

There are within your area 2,800 occupied houses, 56 being Council Houses ; and demand continues.

The present building programme is :

	Approved or Building	*Projected*	*Total*
Brompton	32	40	72
Romanby	12	44	56
Ainderby Steeple ..	4	—	4
Osmotherley ..	6	6	12
East Cowton ..	4	—	4
Appleton Wiske ..	4	10	14
Borrowby	4	—	4
Great Smeaton ..	—	6	6
Hornby	—	2	2
Danby Wiske ..	—	6	6
	66	114	180

Shops.

No action required during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

No action required during the year.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths or pools (publicly or privately owned).

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are 384 registered milk producers within the area.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, the County Councils have issued the following licences to producers within the area :

Designation	*Number*
Accredited	15
Tuberculin Tested ..	4
	19

The Rural District Council as the licensing authority have renewed licences in respect of the pasteurising plants at the premises of the Dried Milk Products Ltd., Romanby, as follows :

(1) " Holder " Process : 800 gallons.

(2) High temperature short term process : 1,000 gallons.

(3) High temperature short term process : 800 gallons.

No action has been required in connection with the above.

Five cowbyers were reconstructed during the year.

No slaughtering takes place within the Rural area, save for occasional bacon pigs by cottagers and farmers.

Thirteen visits were made in respect of food inspection.

The following articles of food were surrendered as unsound :

Roll Bacon ..	15 lbs.	Beans	16 tins
Side Bacon ..	7 lbs.	Peas	5 tins
Evaporated Milk..	50 tins	Chopped Ham ..	12 tins
		Fish	28 lbs.

Factories and Workshops.

Eighteen inspections were made in connection with the above.

Two Informal Notices to carry out limewashing were served.

(Signed) H. TEMPLEMAN,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

CHAS. W. SMITHSON LTD., NORTHALLERTON.